

TIP OF THE

March 11, 2005

SWORD

Incirlik Air Base, Turkey



Annual Awards
Honoring Incirlik's Expeditionary Warriors

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On the cover:

Master Sgt. Dennis Wingett, 39th Communications Squadron first sergeant, was named the 39th Air Base Wing First Sergeant of the Year. Expeditionary warrior was the theme of this year's annual awards banquet. There were 43 nominees for the awards. See related article, Page 5. (Photo by Airman 1st Class Bradley Lail)

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 Brig. Gen. H. Levent Turkmen

COMMANDER'S COMMENTS



By Col. Michael Gardiner,
 39th Air Base Wing commander

Promotions

Congratulations to the March promotees:

Promoted to master sergeant: **Robert Shields**, American Forces Network-Incirlık; **Ramon Parmley**, 728th Air Mobility Squadron; **Jeremy Sutfin**, 39th Security Forces Squadron; **George Lupercio**, 39th Medical Squadron; **Wolfgang Seng**, 39th Maintenance Squadron; **Regina Height**, 39th Contracting Squadron; **Barbara Bazemore**, 39th Air Base Wing

Promoted to technical sergeant: **Nakia Shy**, 728th AMS; **Matthew Perkins**, 728th AMS; **Michael Hunt**, 728th AMS; **Shawn Messer**, 39th SFS; **William Herndon**, 39th SFS; **Curtis Dawson**, 39th SFS; **Sandy Sais**, 39th Logistics Readiness Squadron; **Johnny King**, 39th LRS

Promoted to staff sergeant: **Daniel Zberg**, 728th AMS; **Joseph Trotter**, 728th AMS; **Aaron Linville**, 728th AMS; **Kevin Hobbs**, 39th SFS; **Michelle Dingee**, 39th MDS; **Craig Bless**, 39th MXS; **Gregory Proffitt**, 39th Comptroller Squadron; **Laura Latham**, 39th Communications Squadron

Promoted to senior airman: **Joshua McCurnin**, 728th AMS; **Christine Szelog**, 39th SFS; **Adrian Chavez**, 39th SFS; **Jeffrey Valentin**, 39th CS; **LV Miller**, 728th AMS

Promoted to airman first class: **Bradley**

Lail, 39th CS; Jeffery Henebry, 39th CS Raki poisoning

The U.S. Consulate in Turkey has learned that approximately 500,000 genuine "Yeni Raki" brand labels, including the tax hologram, were stolen from a bottling facility in Izmir. The stolen labels were apparently used by an illegal distillery in Istanbul to label bottles of counterfeit raki contaminated with methyl alcohol and were distributed to numerous locations throughout Turkey including stores and restaurants. The counterfeit bottles all have the "Yeni Raki" label.

Twenty two deaths have been reported due to methyl alcohol poisoning and a number of other individuals are in critical condition after drinking the counterfeit raki. Turkish authorities are aggressively pursuing the case and have seized counterfeit raki in several locations across Turkey. The company that produces the raki is recalling all of the "Yeni Raki" currently on the shelf.

Methyl alcohol ingestion may result in blindness and death. People are warned to avoid any possible counterfeit raki and to seek medical treatment immediately if they have concerns about methyl alcohol poisoning. The symptoms of methyl alcohol poisoning include visual problems, confusion, lethargy, severe abdominal pain and coma. If you or someone you know are displaying any of these symptoms go to the immediate care clinic or the nearest hospital if off base.

Force protection

With the current concern about poisonings, protests and terrorism it is more important than ever to take a wingman with you when you go out. Our people have to be safe when they go off base, pay attention to your surroundings and make sure someone has your six!

Corrections and clarifications

Clarification: *Base turns to contractor to solve Incirlik stray animal problem* the Page 8 story in the March 4 edition of the *Tip of the Sword* stated that every bite victim receives rabies vaccinations.

Public health officials said it is important to report an animal bite so that the biting animal can be caught and assessed. If the biting animal is a stray or an animal that appears

unhealthy the victim undergoes treatment to prevent the potential transmission of rabies.

Correction: The photo on Page 8 of the March 4 edition of the *Tip of the Sword* incorrectly identified Hamit Korkmaz as a member of the 39th Contracting Squadron. Mr. Korkmaz is a contractor for Vinnell, Brown and Root.

Chief's sight picture

Force development changing the education mindset

By Gen. John Jumper
Air Force Chief of Staff

Over the past few years, we have initiated a number of educational initiatives for force development, focusing on changing the way we develop and train our people to meet the challenges of the Expeditionary Air Force. Force development takes a deliberate approach to providing Airmen the training and experience they need to succeed in delivering air and space power now and in the future. We must make sure Airmen get the training and education required for their specialty or area of expertise. If you need additional education or training — you will get it.

This mindset is a significant change, especially for officers. For years, master degrees had a significant impact on promotion potential. This must change — our focus should be on deliberate development and not “square filling.” Education must be tailored to benefit Airmen in doing their jobs. Promotion is, and will continue to be, determined by your performance and demonstrated leadership potential to serve in the next higher grade.

Beginning this January, we will remove all academic education information, including



Gen. John Jumper

bachelor's degrees, from all Line of the Air Force and Judge Advocate General promotion boards through the rank of colonel. The Guard and Reserve components will implement the same procedures beginning with boards convening after January 1, 2006.

All Airmen should receive some form of development to assist them in their duties in higher grades and levels of responsibility. We will provide the right development venues to meet both Airmen and Air Force needs. At the same time, I'm not discouraging you from pursuing an advanced academic degree on your own. We will continue to offer tuition assistance and operate educational support offices at each base. Advanced academic degrees will no longer be a factor in the promotion process — at any level of the process: rater, senior rater, management-level, or the promotion board. The Air Force's emphasis is on job performance and for providing Airmen the right opportunities for advanced education when it is required.

This new policy will not affect chaplain and health profession officers. Due to certification requirements, we need to continue showing academic information for them.

The goal is clear — develop professional Airmen who will collectively leverage their respective strengths to accomplish the Air Force mission. You make our Air Force the best in the world. We owe it to you to provide the skills and education you need to continue to excel.

Woulda, coulda thoughts invade former cop's memories

By Dean Mini
Former Air Force sergeant

My name is Dean Mini and I served as a sergeant with the 39th Security Forces Squadron in Incirlik from 1986 to 1987. Although I have been away from Turkey for several years, I have kept up with its growth through the online newspaper.

For some reason, I can't get Incirlik out of my mind. It just stays with you. Of course, I am many years older and it has been many years since I was stationed at Incirlik. But it finally dawned on me that I was in one of the most intriguing places many will ever have the luxury of traveling to on the Air Force's dime.

Every now and then, I come across a few Web sites, photos and memorabilia — things that stand out. Many stationed there remember the “Alley,” BP's (at the end of the Alley), Adana kebab's, Efes Pilsen, meerschaum pipes, rugs and carpets, copper, ration cards, lots of TDY folks and aircraft constantly coming and going. The people were the best part of the whole show, and while I look back with fond memories of a good time and good buddies, I can now regretfully say I wish I had done a few things differently:

- ♦ I would have gotten off base more. The Air Force did its best at making me feel at “home” while there but there is more to a base than what is inside the front gate. I should have recognized the historical and cultural importance of my surroundings rather than continuously comparing and contrasting it to American standards.

- ♦ I would have taken a lot more pictures.
- ♦ I would have obtained a lot more home addresses of buddies or ways to stay in touch.

- ♦ I would have rid myself of the “short-timer's calendar.” I focused much too much on what was coming (the freedom bird) rather than what was happening.

- ♦ I would have gotten more involved. I should have participated in more activities, traveling and sightseeing.

If I had “experienced” my time there by doing my list of “woulda's” I probably would not be grasping for a way to stay connected now.

But as it stands, I have only Web sites, limited photos and my sparse memories to remind me of what a great place Incirlik was, and still is. My advice to all of you there now — enjoy it and see it for what it truly is, a once in a lifetime opportunity.

Editor's note: Mr. Mini is currently the manager of security at John Hancock Financial services.

“I should have recognized the historical and cultural importance of my surroundings.”

— Dean Mini

Former Air Force sergeant



Airman Information File

March 2005

Attitude – It's a choice!

Attitude — good or bad, we all have one. It's our mental disposition to what's going on around us. We've all met people with good and bad attitudes. Take the person who greets us with a smile and gives 110% effort when performing their duties.

Compare this to the person who greets us with a grimace and complains about every little detail of their job. Who do we prefer to be around?

Our outward actions reflect our inner attitude. We easily make the connection between a person's attitude and their behavior. Phrases like "I can't" or "I won't" or "that's too hard" reflect a negative attitude which can prevent a person from actually achieving the mission. A person with a "can do, nothing is going to stop me" attitude will always find a way to succeed no matter how many or how large the obstacles in their path.

Not only does our attitude affect our own behavior, but it also affects those around us. Winston Churchill once said, "Attitude is a little thing that makes a big difference." Attitudes are contagious. When we're surrounded by individuals with positive or negative attitudes, it's easy to catch their attitude and become infected with good or bad behavior. It's not uncommon to see a whole office of people displaying the same type of attitude. This is a good thing when

it's positive, but nobody wants to work in — or even visit — an office full of bad attitudes. Always strive to be the one with a positive attitude so you can pass it on to those around you.

It's been said that life is 10% what happens to us and 90% how we react to it. We all have our share of good and bad experiences each day. We can't change our past. We can't change how other people act. We can't control everything that happens to us today or in the future, but there is one thing we can control — our reaction to our circumstances. When something bad happens, we can let it bring us down and everyone else we meet during the day, or we can choose to learn from the experience, put it behind us and press ahead with an upbeat attitude. A good example of this is Army Captain David Rozelle. His right foot was amputated after an anti-tank mine ripped a hole in his HUMVEE in Iraq. His positive attitude enabled him to overcome setbacks and put him on track to be the first amputee to return to active duty operations in Iraq.

Having a positive or negative attitude is a choice that only you can make — you decide how you react to the events of the day. While you're the only one in charge of your attitude, you are not the only one affected by it. Attitudes are contagious — is yours worth catching?


General Doc Foglesong


CMSgt Gary Coleman

"Bring Your Courage"

Combat Proud
Base Pride... Mission Pride

Combat Proud focuses on improving the appearance of U.S. Air Forces in Europe bases to foster pride and productivity. People can take part by keeping their office and building grounds clean and well maintained. For more information or to report an area that needs improvement, call the Combat Proud Hotline at 6-PROUD or e-mail combatproud@incirlik.af.mil

YOUR TURN

What are you going to do with your 2004 tax return?

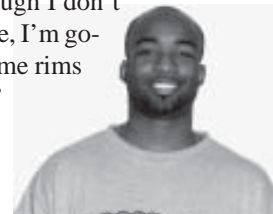
"We are going to use it to pay toward the principle of our home in West Virginia. An extra payment a year on a \$100,000 loan will knock years off a 30-year loan you know."

— **Master Sgt. Steve Mullins**, 39th Communications Squadron



"Even though I don't have a vehicle, I'm going to buy some rims ... they spin."

— **Senior Airman A. Jonathan Rollins III**, 39th Operations Squadron



"Probably put it in the bank."

— **Master Sgt. Alicinne Peebles**, 39th Mission Support Squadron



"Take a trip to Istanbul. I don't think it will pay for much more than that."

— **2nd Lt. Jim Bridgham**, 39th Operations Squadron



"Invest it."
— **Maj. Michael Miller**, 39th Civil Engineer Squadron



To submit a question for "Your Turn," call 6-6060 or e-mail tip.sword@incirlik.af.mil

2004 annual award winners NEWS



Photo by Airman Dawn Duman

Senior NCO of the Year
Senior Master Sgt. Jerry Moore Jr.
 39th Security Forces Squadron
 operations superintendent



Photo by Airman Dawn Duman

Company Grade Officer of the Year
1st Lt. Jeremy Russell
 39th Maintenance Squadron
 munitions accountable systems officer



Photo by Airman1st Class Bradley Lail

NCO of the Year
Tech. Sgt. Dwayne Adams
 39th Operations Squadron
 standardization and evaluation chief



Photo by Airman1st Class Bradley Lail

Category II Civilian of the Year
Martha Valdez
 39th Mission Support Squadron
 management analyst



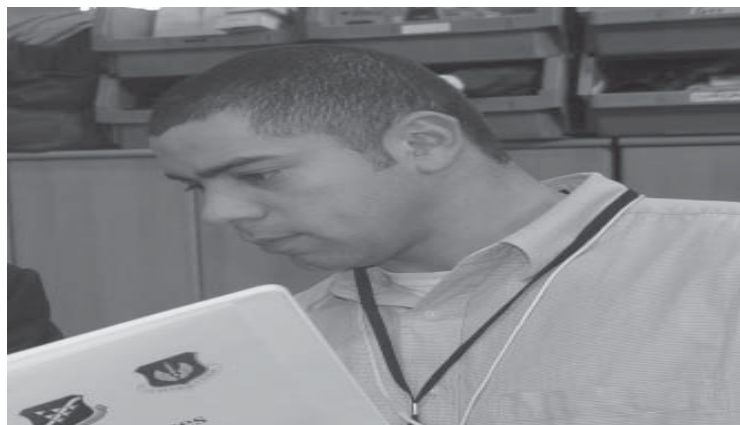
Photo by Airman1st Class Bradley Lail

Category I Civilian of the Year
Nerissa Atkisson
 39th Mission Support Squadron
 community center program director



Photo by Airman Dawn Duman

First Sergeant of the Year
Master Sgt. Dennis Wingett Jr.
 39th Communications Squadron
 first sergeant



Courtesy photo

Airman of the Year
Senior Airman Ryan Music
 425th Air Base Squadron
 security forces trainer

Teets discusses recapitalization, core values

By Staff Sgt. C. Todd Lopez
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON(AFPN) — The acting secretary of the Air Force spoke on Capitol Hill March 2 about recapitalizing aging systems, the death gratuity and recent problems within the service.

In testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee, Peter Teets explained the importance of modernizing the service's fleet of aging aircraft.

"The Air Force's No. 1 challenge is to recapitalize our aging systems," Mr. Teets said. "Our aircraft fleet averages 23 years old — ranging from fairly young F-117 (Nighthawks) and B-2 (Spirits), to venerable B-52 (Stratofortresses) and KC-135 (Stratotankers). Flightline and depot maintenance crews work magic to keep many of our legacy aircraft flying, but we cannot fly those planes forever."

Mr. Teets told senators that it is clear the Air Force's fleet needs to be modernized and that the service is already making headway in achieving that goal.

"The F/A-22 (Raptor), for example, will recapitalize our F-15 (Eagles); the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter will recapitalize our F-16 (Fighting Falcons) and A-10 (Thunderbolt II) combat capabilities; and the C-130J (Hercules) will modernize our intratheater airlift," he said.

In recent weeks, cuts to the F/A-22 program appeared in the president's fiscal 2006 budget. Mr. Teets said the Air Force will continue to focus on it, and will build a case to continue the program.

"This is going to be one of the key items studied in the Quadrennial Defense Review," Mr. Teets said. "The budget we have suggested in fiscal 2006 does not decrease the flow of manufacturing F/A-22s."

Another topic discussed was proposed changes to death benefits.

New legislation on Capitol Hill aims to increase benefits to families of those killed while in military service. One bill would raise the military's death gratuity to families from \$12,000 to \$100,000 and increase the payout from the Service Members Group Life Insurance policy to \$400,000. The cash increases are part of a total benefits package.

"This death gratuity . . . is part of a total benefits package," he said. "I'd like to see what that total benefits package is. I've heard rough



Photo by Master Sgt. Gary Coppage

Peter Teets, acting secretary of the Air Force, testifies before the Senate Armed Services Committee in Washington.

numbers calculated that say the death benefit is several million dollars, cumulative over a period of time.

"I think the benefit is attractive and good; I'd like to try and understand what is the magnitude of the cost. We will have to defer something else in order to pay that cost," he said.

The acting secretary also touched on recent controversies.

Mr. Teets told legislators he felt it was important to be open and honest with both Congress and the public about the Air Force's own internal and ethical issues.

"We must be forthright about some of our recent problems," he said. "The Air Force has suffered from the misdeeds of a few. Acquisition improprieties, problems at the Air Force Academy and other issues weigh on us all.

"Air Force leaders have a strong obligation to ensure our trust within our ranks, within the Congress and with the American people. I am pledged to this aim, and to the core values that guide us: integrity first, service before self and excellence in all we do."

Personal travel card information lost, no evidence of misuse

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — About 900,000 Defense Department employees may be affected by Bank of America's loss and the possible compromise of government travel card information, Pentagon officials said Feb. 25.

The General Services Administration and Bank of America notified DOD officials that "SmartPay" travel cards are affected. Officials said Bank of America has been monitoring the affected accounts, and there has been no evidence of fraud or misuse.

Bank of America officials are sending letters to affected employees.

"Information regarding travel card program accounts for individual cardholders has been lost, and it is possible that that information has been compromised, though

we don't believe that that is the case," said Teresa McKay, the Defense Department's deputy chief financial officer.

Secret Service agents are conducting the investigation, with help from the Defense Criminal Investigative Service. Officials said that although there has been no evidence of criminal activity, releasing details about the loss could jeopardize the investigation.

"Indications right now are that it is an accidental event," Ms. McKay said. "The bank has been monitoring the accounts involved from the onset, and to date there has been no indication of fraudulent activity."

The information is personal cardholder information — names, Social Security numbers, addresses and account numbers — on magnetic tape. The loss occurred in late December.

GSA officials notified DOD on Jan. 19. Ms. McKay said the delay was necessary to protect the integrity of the investigation.

"The bank is in the process of notifying cardholders of the situation," she said. "They will be given a special customer service number that has been set up by the bank specifically for this purpose. If (cardholders) have any questions, they can contact the bank. If they would like, they may request that the bank cancel the card and reissue a card to them."

Bank of America has set up a hotline for those affected. The number is (800) 493-8444. Cardholders who notice irregularities in their accounts should call the bank at the number on the back of their cards, Ms. McKay said.

Medics celebrate safety week

By Airman Ross Tweten
5th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

MINOT AIR BASE, N.D. (AFPN) — Health-care workers around the country marked the beginning of National Patient Safety Awareness Week Sunday.

Air Force medics are using the week, which runs through March 12, to let the patients know how much is being done to make sure they are safe and what they can do to become more involved in their health care, said Ellen Kasha, a 5th Medical Group patient safety programs assistant here.

The week centers on educating patients on how to become involved in their health care to prevent medical errors, as well as working with treatment facilities to build partnerships with their patient community.

"The easiest way to get involved in your own health care is to ask as many questions as possible," said David Lindee, 5th MDG quality services chief. "Physicians, as well as clinic nurses and the pharmacy, are great places to direct questions about your health care."

Patients can work with their doctors and participate in all decisions about their treatment.

"Patients should not be afraid to ask questions," Ms. Kasha said. "If you have concerns, speak up. The more information patients have about their health care, the better

decisions they can make about what is best for them."

As part of their health care, patients are also encouraged to know what type and how much medication they are required to take, Mr. Lindee said.

"Also, make sure you let your doctor know about any over-the-counter medications you take, including vitamins and herbal supplements," he said.

Keeping records about your medical history and sharing up-to-date details with your medical team are good ways to prevent errors in your health care, Mr. Lindee said.

"Your medical history includes any medical conditions and illnesses, immunizations, allergies, reactions and sensitivities, hospitalizations, medications and dietary supplements, and any other doctors treating you," he said.

To continue providing patients with quality care, Airmen have several avenues for customer feedback.

"Continuous input from patients and their families help us gain a better understanding of what is needed to be effective for our health-care system," Mr. Lindee said. "The single most important way you can prevent errors in your health care is to be an active member in your health-care team."

For more information, call the clinic at 6-6173.

AF announces selections to senior master sergeant

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas
The Air Force has selected 1,535 master sergeants for promotion to senior master sergeant.

The promotion list will be publicly released at 9 a.m. CST March 9, and the complete list should be available by 5 p.m. CST on the Air Force Personnel Center Web site at <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/eprom/>.

The board, which convened here Jan. 31 to Feb. 18, considered 16,708 master sergeants for a 9.19 percent select rate.

"Since public law limits the number of personnel who may serve on active duty in the top two enlisted grades, promotion to senior master sergeant remains highly competitive," said Chief Master Sgt. Dale Kenney, chief of the enlisted promotion and military testing branch here at AFPC. "The hard work of these 1,535 individuals has set

them apart as a select group ready to enter the top three percent of the enlisted force."

The average score for those selected was 663.46 with an average time in grade and time in service of 4.54 and 20.16 years respectively.

The average score was based on the following point averages:

- ♦ 134.98 for enlisted performance reports;
- ♦ 33.48 for time in grade;
- ♦ 21.24 for time in service;
- ♦ 20.43 for decorations;
- ♦ 66.32 for Air Force supervisory examination;
- ♦ 387.01 for board score.

Score notices will be available on the virtual MPF today. Those selected will be promoted to E-8 beginning in April.

For more information on the senior master sergeant list, contact the local military personnel flight.

IN THE NEWS

Early closure

The medical facility closes at 11 a.m. March 18 for an official function. Urgent care issues can be addressed through the immediate care clinic by calling 6-6554.

Scholarships

Continuing education scholarships are available for family members working on associate or bachelor degrees. Applications are available at the education office. There are also scholarships available for graduating high school seniors. Applications are available at the guidance counselor's office. All applications are due April 1. For more information, call Christine Baker at 6-5723.

Nanny training

A seminar on child care and child development for nannies and Incirlik families from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. March 19 at the Incirlik Elementary School cafeteria. Final sign up is March 15. For more information or to sign up, call the family support center at 6-6755.

Artists needed

The 39th Air Base Wing is looking for artists to design an original art lithograph for Incirlik's upcoming 50th Anniversary. For more information or to volunteer, call the 39th ABW Historian at 6-9667 or e-mail 39abw.ho@incirlik.af.mil.

TDY volunteers needed

The Air Force Personnel Center is looking for support officer volunteers for extended length TDYs. The career fields needed are: 32E, 32E4E, 36P3, 34M4, 35P and 35P4. For more information, call 1st Lt. Nancy Morin at 6-6499.

Top III meeting

The Incirlik Top III meeting is 3 p.m. March 18 in the consolidated club's enlisted lounge.

Honor society induction

The Annual National Honor Society and National Junior Honor Society induction is 7 p.m. March 29, in the multi-purpose room. For more information, call the high school at 6-6330.

Incirlik helps DOD celebrate America's women

By 1st Lt. S.J.B. Bryant
39th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

The Department of Defense celebrates National Women's History Month in March and as such, Incirlik will host an array of events throughout the month honoring American women and their achievements and sacrifices.

Team Incirlik people can view displays highlighting women's contributions at the base library, commissary, post office, exchange and hospital as well as take part in four main events.

Although this year's theme is "Women Change America," the NWHM planning committee members want to get men and women of all ages involved. Thus, they are sponsoring a poster contest for children in grades kindergarten through sixth, an essay contest for youth in grades seven through twelve, a scavenger hunt for adults and a healthy bake off for all ages.

"Just because this is "Women's History Month" doesn't mean males are not invited to its events," said Staff Sgt. Trisha Keen, 39th Mission Support Squadron manpower technician and Incirlik's 2005 NWHM project officer. "Men, as well as women, have benefited from female contributions. Do you think Marie Curie discovered penicillin only for women? Were Marian Anderson's songs only to be heard by women?"

National Women's History Month spotlights an array of different women each year. This year there are several familiar names like Maya Lin, sculptor of the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial; Harriet Tubman, conductor of the Underground Railroad; Juliette Low, creator of the Girl Scouts; Sacajawea, frontier guide; and Amelia Earhart, pioneer aviator. The list also includes a few unfamiliar names, admits Sergeant Keen. There are numerous women who have shaped America that are not "household names," like Barbara McClintock, Nobel Prize winning scientist; Maria Mitchell, astronomer; Wilma Rudolph, Olympic athlete; Clara Barton, American Red Cross founder; and Mary Katherine Goddard, printer of the Declaration of Independence.

"To honor these women, we have gathered a few of Incirlik's famous women to present a short biography of their life at a luncheon March 30 at the club beginning at 11:30 a.m.," said Col. Mary Parker, 39th Maintenance Group commander and the committee's liaison. "We will have about eight panelists who will field questions about



Photo by Senior Airman Dallas Edwards

Sueann Herkel, 39th Air Base Wing chapel protestant, parish and religious education coordinator, tells her daughter, Jessica, about her job.

what has made them successful leaders and shaped their lives. Everyone, men and women, are invited."

The committee is also hosting a mentoring program at the elementary and high school to introduce young people to the contributions of women. Volunteers are needed to tell stories about famous females or read books by women authors throughout the month.

There will be a fitness fair March 24 in conjunction with the Health and Wellness Center's health fair at the exchange. The day will begin with a 5K run at Arkadas Park at 7 a.m. and will include other activities, demonstrations and vendors. The highlight of the event will be a healthy bake off in honor of American's "favorite female chef," Julia Child. After the Girl and Boy Scouts judge the entries and prizes are awarded, the remainder of the baked goods will be available to those in attendance.

For more information on any of the events, call Sergeant Keen at 6-6272 or Tech. Sgt. Alicia Lewis, Incirlik's 2005 NWHM co-chair, at 6-6210.

"We want to make this the best Women's History Month in the history of Incirlik," said Sergeant Lewis. "And the only way we can do that is through the support of everyone."

Women's history timeline

1870 The 15th Amendment receives final ratification. By its text, women are not specifically excluded from the vote.

1890 The first state (Wyoming) grants women the right to vote in all elections.

1920 The 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution is ratified. It declares: "The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex."

1964 Title VII of the Civil Rights Act passes including a prohibition against employment discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, or sex.

1968 Executive Order 11246 prohibits sex discrimination by government contractors and requires affirmative action plans.

1972 Title IX (Public Law 92-318) of the Education Amendments prohibits sex discrimination in all aspects of education programs that receive federal support.

1981 The U.S. Supreme Court rules that excluding women from the draft is constitutional.

1984 The state of Mississippi belatedly ratifies the 19th Amendment, granting women the vote.

1994 The Violence Against Women Act funds services for victims of rape and domestic violence

1996 *United States v. Virginia*, affirms that the male-only admissions policy of the state-supported Virginia Military Institute violates the Fourteenth Amendment. (Courtesy *National Women's History Project*)



Ask MEHMET

By Mehmet Birbiri, *Host Nation Adviser*

Elderly people

Question: My Turkish friend asked me where my mother was the other day and I told her she was in a nursing home. After explaining what this type of institution was, my friend was shocked that I would do that to my family. Does Turkey not have such facilities?

Response: Family ties are very strong among members of Turkish families. Children usually continue to live with their parents regardless of their age, until they get married. The elderly people also live with one of their children.

Turks show a great respect to their elders. Sending the elder parent to a nursing home is not a common practice. Traditionally, Turks believe that treating the elderly well is a must. If we do not respect our elders and treat them well, how can we expect respect and good treatment for ourselves from our own children?

If an elder is not taken care by his children, then neighbors and the community take care of them. People over age 65 who have no income at all are paid a salary monthly by the state. They are treated free of charge at state hospitals. Also, Turkish airlines, railroads and many other organizations apply reduced tariffs for the elderly.

On the other hand, there are nursing homes in Turkey, similar to the ones in the United States. There are not that many and not in every city. They are run by the state. Some elders voluntarily go to those nursing homes. Most of the big cities have nursing houses as well. Those houses are run by municipalities and many volunteers work in those houses and companies sponsor or support those nursing houses. The poor elders who have no income and no relatives are accepted into those nursing homes.

There is a retirement program in Turkey as well. Men used to work for 25 years and women work for 20 years before becoming eligible for retirement. Now, according to the law passed recently, depending on the time you have worked, you should reach a certain



Photo by Senior Airman Dallas Edwards

Serder Yaluk, an Incirlik Village Merchant's Association jewelry store salesman, displays jewelry to an Incirlik community member. Often, merchants use business cards to send payments or goods. When they give them out just for the address they will often put an 'X' on the back to make sure no one misuses the card.

age before becoming eligible for retirement.

There are three retirement institutions in Turkey — one for government clerks, one for workers and one for self-employed. Workers don't have to work all those years at the same place to become eligible for retirement. Deductions made for retirement are deposited to the Social Insurance Organization in the workers' name. As well as retirement, the organization is also in charge of medical insurance of the workers. Parents and children of the workers are also eligible to be treated free of charge at those hospitals.

Business Cards

Question: Last week I was shopping in the Alley and two merchants gave me their business cards. What is strange though, they made a big 'X' mark in the back of it, then handed to me. Why do they do that?

Response: This is a habitual action by many people in Turkey. Most shops in the Alley and in rest of Turkey use business cards for more than just handing out to customers. Many shopkeepers send short messages or notes by writing on the back of their business cards.

Payments, receiving and sending goods are also accompanied with notes written on the back of a business card. The note on the back mostly says, "The individual holding my card is ... Please give him/her ..." The receiver does whatever the back of the card says and keeps it until seeing the card's owner to finish whatever business remains.

But some dishonest people misuse the system. If they have an unmarked business

card, they can write any message they want for goods, money or services at the expense of the card's original owner.

Therefore, some shopkeepers make a big 'X' or stamp 'For Address Only' on the back to prevent any abuse of the card.

In Turkish

anne - mother
(un - neahi)

baba - father
(bah - bah)

emekli - retired
(eh - mac - lee)

genec - young
(gan - ch)

yasli - old
(yahsh - leh)

is - business
(esh)

kart - card
(cart)

Do you have a question about something Turkish? Ask Mehmet. To submit a question, call 6-6060 or e-mail mehmet.birbiri@incirlik.af.mil.

AFSA

'Voice' speaks to Congress for enlisted benefit

By Master Sgt. Roberta Williams
39th Air Base Wing Career Advisor

There is an organization in the Air Force working to make life better for all Airmen by being their voice to policy makers in Congress.

The Air Force Sergeants Association was started by four Air Force sergeants in 1961 and has lead the way on Capitol Hill and in the Pentagon as the voice of the enlisted ever since. It is the only organization working strictly for the concerns and careers of Air Force enlisted members and their families, according to the AFSA Web site www.afsahq.org.

"I became a part of AFSA because it is an organization that presents issues and positive proposals to Congress that will benefit me, as an active duty member and retiree," said Master Sgt. Andrew McClinton, 39th Communications Squadron chief of wire and telephones systems and Incirlik AFSA chapter secretary.

The AFSA's mission, at the headquarters level, is to advocate improved quality-of-life and economic fairness that will support the well-being of Air Force enlisted personnel and their families. Areas of success for the AFSA over the past several years include:

- ♦ Increased allowances and reduction of out-of-pocket expenses during permanent change-of-station moves, particularly for enlisted members.
- ♦ Increased pay, allowances and benefits for low-ranking Airmen
- ♦ Targeted pay increases for enlisted members.
- ♦ Approval of various health-care benefit expansion demonstration projects (e.g., TRICARE Senior Prime, FEHBP-65, etc.) and achievement of an expanded pharmacy benefit and TRICARE for Life benefit for Medicare-eligible retirees, family members and their survivors.
- ♦ Increased reserve component health care (medical and dental), pay and compensation, and quality-of-life benefits for reservists and their families.
- ♦ Continued protection of military stores (commissaries and exchanges).
- ♦ Retirement protection (e.g., defeat of the "High One" retirement plan for those who entered service before Sept. 8, 1980; repeal of the "Redux" retirement plan for those who entered service after July 31, 1986; protection of on-time retiree cost of living allowances.
- ♦ Appropriation and authorization of "Impact Aid" funding for local school districts educating the children of military families.

- ♦ Implementation of the National Mail Order Pharmacy program.
- ♦ Hazardous Duty Pay for firefighters.

AFSA is involved in the Incirlik community ... from providing Christmas and Valentine's Day cards to troops downrange, to donating clothing to wounded soldiers coming out of Baghdad, and supporting the Incirlik quarterly and annual award winners



Photo by Master Sgt. Raymond Switzer

Joyce Caraway, retired military spouse, receives the flag that draped her husband Tommy's casket during a funeral ceremony. One of the things the Air Force Sergeants Association is helping with in Congress is House Resolution 292, which would increase the amount of military death gratuity from \$12,000 to \$100,000.

AFSA is there. They also provide mentorship to Incirlik students, teach how people can get in touch with or write Congressmen and sponsor an Airman Leadership School award. The Incirlik chapter also bought AFSA memberships for the entire ALS graduating class Dec. 23. AFSA is also heavily involved in the upcoming Incirlik 50th Anniversary celebration this summer.

Current AFSA members that PCS to Incirlik need to update their chapter information. It can be done on the AFSA Web site www.afsahq.org. Click on "Check/Change your membership record."

AFSA is offering a \$150 book scholarship. For more information call Senior Airman Tylor Shellenberger, AFSA vice president, at 6-3130.

Members receive *Sergeants Magazine* which offers insight on enlisted issues and access to the Capitol Hill Update line. There are also services for members-only ... no annual fee MasterCard, scholarship programs, travel, special savings, information, health and life insurance, auto insurance and publications, but these are not the main reason people join.

"I'm a member because there is a unique opportunity to make a direct impact on the local community and also take the concerns of servicemembers to Congress," said Senior Master Sgt. Vincent Lowe, 39th Maintenance Squadron munitions production section superintendent and member of AFSA for 11 years. "No other organization can even come close to that. If you want to be an active member of an organization that has long-lasting and reaching impact, this is the one to join."

Incirlik AFSA local chapter 1660 meetings are held the third Thursday of every month at 11:30 a.m. in the Enlisted Lounge of the club. For more information, call Sergeant Williams at 6-1019 or Airman Shellenberger at 6-3130 visit www.afsahq.org to join on-line.



THE INCIRLIK GUIDE

PTSC flea market

The high school's Parent Teacher Student Club sponsors a flea market to benefit the high school March 19 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the high school multi-purpose room. The flea market is open to the Incirlik community. People who would like to sell items may rent a table for \$10. For more information, call Senior Master Sgt. John Herkel at 6-6439, Sueann Herkel at 6-6441 or their home number at 6-5921.

Varsity softball

Men's and women's volleyball teams meet Saturdays at 1 p.m. in Softball Field #1, across from Arkadas Park. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Jeff Thomas at 6-3567.

Youth dance classes

The youth center offers dance classes for three levels. **Dance I (ages 3 to 5)** meets Tuesdays or Thursdays; both meet from 6 to 7 p.m. for jazz, tap and ballet. **Dance II (ages 6 to 9)** meets Thursdays from 7 to 8 p.m. for ballet and tap. **Dance III (ages 10 to 12)** meets Tuesdays from 7 to 8 p.m. for ballet and one-on-one progress. All classes cost \$30 a month. For more information, call 6-3263.

Family support center

The following classes are available at the family support center: **Solo Flight Club**, which offers unaccompanied, single and going-it-alone parents an opportunity to network, meets in the Piper Lounge at the club Tuesday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. **10-steps to federal employment** meets Wednesday from 8 a.m. to noon. **Sponsorship training** meets Thursday from 9 to 10 a.m. **Heartlink**, which is geared toward spouses new to the Air Force, meets March 24 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, call the FSC at 6-6755.

Pool closure

The Incirlik pool remains closed through April 19 for annual maintenance and the construction of a new water slide. For more information, call outdoor recreation at 6-6044.

WARRIOR OF THE WEEK



**Senior Airman
Christine Alderson**
39th Medical Squadron
Medical Material Journeyman

Time in service: Four years

Hometown: San Luis Obispo, Calif.

Time on station: Nine months

Hobbies: Traveling, reading, shopping, theater and movies. But most of all, spending time with my husband, Greg, and 6-month-old son, Blake. They are what keep me sane, happy and motivated.

Why did you join the Air Force?

To do something meaningful, see the world and get a handle on life.

What do you like most about Incirlik?

The historical value in the surrounding area and the weather.

How do you contribute to the 39th Air

Base Wing's mission?

Every member of the wing needs health care to stay fit and medically ready to complete the mission, and health care wouldn't be possible without the medical supplies (needed) to perform it. I order, receive and distribute medical supplies and equipment to all sections of the hospital.

What is your favorite motto?

Never regret. If it's good, it's wonderful. If it's bad, it's experience. Don't let bad experiences dictate who you are.

What Air Force core value best describes you and why?

Excellence in all we do. I think every day is another day to find room for improvement and if I'm not able to make something better, or at least accomplish something to the absolute best of my ability, then that day is wasted.

Supervisor's quote:

"Senior Airman Alderson is an energetic technician who takes a great deal of pride in her daily work. She can be counted on to always give her very best effort on each project she takes on and looks for additional work when finished with her own," said Master Sgt. George Kuechmann, 39th MDS Medical Logistics NCO in charge. "She is a pleasant personality to have in the office and exemplifies our career field's motto of 'whatever it takes.'"

Classifieds

Lost: Woman's silver Egyptian collar necklace, lost Feb. 1. If found, call Debbie at 6-2495.

Yard sale: From

8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at 4042D Adana Drive Saturday. For more information, call 6-5791 after 6 p.m.

For sale: 1993 Nissan Pressa, champagne, four-door sedan, great condition. \$2,200 OBO. For more information, call 6-2247 after 6 p.m.

For sale: 1993 Nissan Skyline GTST25, Japanese specs, two-door, automatic transmission, 2.5-liter single turbo engine. Automatic air and power everything. Only 67,000 kilometers; \$4,500 OBO. For more information, call Jeff Martin at (home) 6-2216 or (work) 6-6014, or e-mail jeff_m@incirlik.net.

For sale: 1992 Toyota Vista, four door, air conditioner, white, clean \$1,950 OBO. For more information, call 6-2307.

Volunteers needed: The chapel needs volunteers to assist with light office duties including answering phones, preparing bulletins and aiding chaplains. No experience required, training provided for each task. For more information, call Jen Smith at 6-6441.

Volunteers needed: Volunteers are needed to help plan Women's History Month activities. Military and civilian volunteers are encouraged to participate. For more information call the Military Equal Opportunity Office at 6-6210.

Positions available: Choctaw Management/Services Enterprise is recruiting a family advocacy nurse. Applicants must have at least a bachelor of science in nursing, a current U.S. license, and experience in community health, family maltreatment and maternal child. Résumés are being accepted by Gene Wilkinson, CM/SE U.S. Air Forces in Europe program manager, at gene.wilkinson@sembach.af.mil and Lara Truppo, CM/SE administrative assistant, at lara.truppo@sembach.af.mil. For more information call, Mr. Wilkinson or Ms. Truppo at DSN 496-6667 or (49) 6302-67-6667.

COMBAT, SPECIAL

INTEREST PROGRAM

Crossroads Café

Today: The 39th Communications Squadron sponsors food and fellowship at the Crossroads Café from 7 to 11 p.m. It is open to everyone ages 18 and older.

Saturday: The Top III Association sponsors food and fellowship at the Crossroads Café from 6 to 10 p.m., all ages welcomed. For more information, call Senior Airman Tianna Milagro at 6-6441.

Combat Intro resumes

Combat Intro resumes Tuesday and Wednesday. All sponsors and supervisors should ensure their new people attend this inprocessing. For more information, call Denise Brown at 6-6755.

Women's retreat

The Protestant Women of the Chapel hosts a retreat, open to all women in the Incirlik community, April 1 to 3 at a location off base (call for details). The cost is \$60 and includes all meals, lodging and transportation. Registration deadline is March 22. For more information, call Denise Burton at 6-2493.

Combat Touch happenings

Catholic Sunday School is cancelled March 20 and 21. No Catholic Daily Mass Thursday. Palm Sunday Mass is March 20 at 9:30 a.m. Saint Paul of Tarsus **Reconciliation Service** March 21 at 5 p.m. in the, dinner will follow. The **Holy Thursday Mass** is March 24 at 5:30 p.m. A **Good Friday Service** is March 25 at 5:30 p.m. There will be an **Easter Vigil** March 26 at 7 p.m. instead of an Easter Sunday Mass, reception to follow. All services are held in the chapel sanctuary. For more information, call Patty Heidlage at 6-3890. **Chapel-sponsored pilgrimages** to Antioch, Cappadocia and the Seven Churches are planned March and April. For more information, call 6-6441. Protestant Women of the Chapel events include: Craft, chat and chocolate Saturday from 6 p.m. to midnight in the chapel annex; fellowship dinner Monday from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Crossroads Café, Women's Bible study Tuesdays from 9 to 11 a.m. or from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the chapel conference room.



Trips and more ...

Sebahattin Daglioglu, outdoor recreation bike and ski mechanic, performs maintenance on a customer's bicycle. Outdoor recreation offers a variety of trips, services and equipment rentals. Upcoming trips include skiing at Erciyes and hiking at Camlilayla. Skiing cost is \$225, which includes transportation, gear, lodging and food, and hiking at Camlilayla. Hiking cost is \$18. For more information, visit outdoor recreation Tuesdays through Fridays from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturdays 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. or call 6-6044.



AT THE OASIS

Today

7 p.m. – Lemony Snicket's a Series of Unfortunate Events (PG) – Starring Jim Carrey and Timothy Spall. Violet, Klaus and Sunny Baudelaire are three young children who receive news that their parents have died in a fire and left them an enormous fortune not to be used until the eldest child is of age. They are taken in by a series of odd relatives and other people, including Lemony Snicket, who narrates the film, and the cunning and dastardly Count Olaf. (98 minutes)

9:15 p.m. – Closer (R) – Starring Julia Roberts and Jude Law. An uncompromisingly honest look at modern relationships, Closer is the story of four strangers and their chance meetings, instant attractions and brutal betrayals. (110 minutes)



Saturday

5 p.m. – Lemony Snicket's a Series of Unfortunate Events (PG) – Starring Jim Carrey and Timothy Spall. (98 minutes)

7:30 p.m. – Coach Carter (PG-13)(1st Run) – Starring Samuel L. Jackson and Robert Richard. Coach Ken Carter, who oversees the direction of Richmond High School's basketball program in California, found himself in the center of controversy when he

locked out his entire Varsity basketball team (including his own son) in order to motivate and push them to improve their grades. (137 minutes)

Sunday

7 p.m. – Coach Carter (PG-13)(1st Run) – Starring Samuel L. Jackson and Robert Richard. (137 minutes)

Thursday

7 p.m. – Flight of the Phoenix (PG-13) – Starring Dennis Quaid and Tyrese Gibson. The action-adventure revolves around the plight of Captain Frank Towns. Stranded in the terrain of Mongolia's Gobi Desert, Frank and his navigator face an equal challenge in maintaining order among the survivors. (113 minutes)



AT THE M1

Ray (PG-13) — 12:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. (152 minutes)
Meet the Fockers (PG-13) — 11 a.m. and 9 p.m. (98 minutes)

Movie listings are subject to changes. On-base listings are courtesy of the Army and Air Force Exchange Service Web site at <http://www.aafes.com/ems/euro/incirlik.htm>; M-1 listings are courtesy of the Tempe Cinemaxx Web site at www.tepecinemaxx.com.tr. For more Oasis information and updates, call the movie recording at 6-6986 or the theater office at 6-9140.